

Happy 100th birthday, BFA.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty, and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1875. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the mental health benefits parity provisions for an additional year.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5240. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5241. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to financial holding companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5242. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closure of the Commercial Fishery for King Mackerel in the Exclusive Economic Zone in the Western Zone of the Gulf of Mexico" received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5243. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Colorado: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL#7586-9) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5244. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, several documents related to the Agency's regulatory programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5245. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Pensions Plan, etc. Cost of Living

Adjustments for 2004" (Notice 2003-73) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5246. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update Notice" (Notice 2003-74) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5247. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bureau of Labor Statistics Price Indexes for Department Stores" (Rev. Rule 2003-121) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5248. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TD: Return of Partnership Income" (RIN1545-BC01) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5249. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CPI Adjustment for Section 7872(g) for 2004" (Rev. Rul. 2003-118) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5250. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Computation of Required Interest Using Mean Reserves" (Rev. Rul. 2003-120) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5251. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tax Exempt Bond Partnership Revenue Procedure" (Rev. Proc. 2003-84) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5252. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "CPI Adjustment for Section 1274A for 2004" (Rev. Rul. 2003-119) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5253. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, a request to permit the use of Foreign Military Financing for the sale of 125 M1A1 ABRAMS tank kits for Egypt; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5254. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of a certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more to the United Kingdom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5255. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the report of the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and defense services sold under a contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5256. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Changes in Office of Personnel Management's Regulations" (RIN3206-AJ54) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5257. A communication from the Director, Workforce Compensation and Performance Service, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Regulations Locality-Based Comparability Payments" (RIN3206-AI81) received on November 13, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GREGG, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 720. A bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely effect patient safety (Rept. No. 108-196).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1136. A bill to restate, clarify, and revise the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (Rept. No. 108-197).

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 793. A bill to provide for increased energy savings and environmental benefits through the increased use of recovered mineral component in federally funded projects involving procurement of cement or concrete (Rept. No. 108-198).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 253. A resolution to recognize the evolution and importance of motorsports.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on the Judiciary.

James B. Comey, of New York, to be Deputy Attorney General.

*Michael J. Garcia, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

Federico Lawrence Rocha, of California, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of California for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 1868. A bill to authorize a 3-year demonstration program to recruit and train physicians to serve in rural settings; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.